THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The demand for establishment of a Marine Engineering College at Tuticorin could not be acceded due to paucity of resources.

गुजरात में पोत-भंजन गतिविधियों में कमी

*358. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात के भावनगर एवं जामनगर क्षेत्रों में पुराने पोतों के भंजन से संबंधित उद्योग की गतिविधियां किस अवस्था में हैं;

(ख) क्या वर्ष 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान, जामनगर तथा भावनगर में इन गतिविधियों में कमी आने के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा कोई अध्ययन/मूल्यांकन किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्य सभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Levying Tolls on National Highways

*359. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy tolls on National Highways; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the revenues generated would be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to levy toll on improved 4 lane sections of National Highways, bypasses and bridges.

(b) The funds so generated would be utilised for further development of National Highways.

Tightening Emigration Act

*360. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering giving more teeth to Emigration Act to rein-in unscrupulous manpower exporters who bucaneer in promising lucrative jobs abroad and vanish without a trace once they pocket their clients' dues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) High level consultations have taken place between the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Home Affairs to address the problem arising out of unscrupulous agents exploiting people on the promise of lucrative jobs abroad. Instructions have already been issued by Ministry of Home Affairs to Immigration Check Points to ensure effective implementation of the Emigration Act so that gullible people are not defrauded and illegally taken abroad without proper emigration clearance. Following guidelines already exist to curb the nefarious activities:—

(a) It is a cognizable offence for anyone to advertise in a newspaper, soliciting applications for employment abroad without quoting the Ministry of Labour's licence number. Ministry of Labour has reiterated its instructions to State Governments to take stringent action against advertisers who are not registered and who give advertisements for employment abroad.

(b) As the immigration authorities act on behalf of the protector of Emigrants, the protectors are under instructions to conduct surprise checks to see that the clauses of the Emigration Act are strictly implemented and persons are not allowed to travel without emigration clearance.